

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WDA appeals Farm Services Agency Decision

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) has filed a formal appeal with the National Appeals Division to include Johnson and Sheridan counties in the 2004 Non-fat Dry Milk Feed (NDM) Program.

The WDA wishes to provide feed credit to livestock producers in these two counties, but has been denied from doing so by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Services Agency (FSA).

Johnson and Sheridan counties were originally excluded from the 2004 NDM Program because they did not meet the D-4 drought status requirement prior to the cut-off date. Three weeks following the cut-off, the drought status of these two counties had worsened to D-4 drought. At this point, the Wyoming Department of Agriculture requested to the FSA that Johnson and Sheridan counties be added to the 2004 NDM Program.

This request was denied by the FSA, which prompted the WDA to file an appeal with the USDA National Appeals Division. In addition, the WDA sent a letter to FSA requesting that mediation be used as a resolution tool, to which the Farm Service Agency declined to participate.

Currently, the appeal is still with the National Appeals Division, and a decision should be reached soon. If these two counties are admitted, the WDA will notify the eligible residents of Johnson and Sheridan counties about further actions to take.

For more information about this decision or the 2004 NDM Program, please contact the Wyoming Department of Agriculture at (307) 777-7321.